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12-12-12 DATE HAS COUPLES CELEBRATING IN UNIQUE FASHION PAGE 11

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BIEBER MURDER PLOT?

Belieb it or not: Justin Bieber was the apparent target of a grisly murder plot concocted by an inmate in New Mexico, state police said yesterday. When asked to comment, the singer's management released a statement saying only that they take "every precaution to protect and ensure the safety of Justin and his fans." Story, page 8.

CHRIS MCKAY/GETTY IMAGES FOR JINGLE BALL 2012

System unfair to mom, kids, advocate says

Investigation. Provincial children's advocate says actions of child welfare officials 'may well have affected the bond' between parent and children

Saskatchewan's children's advocate says two kids and their rehabilitated mother were not treated fairly by the child-welfare system.

Bob Pringle said it was correct for Social Services to take the boy and girl from their mother, who was a drug addict and prostitute. Pringle also said ministry staff initially took the right steps to reunite the family by working with the mother to help her get better.

But he said those efforts stopped when the ministry sought permanent wardship of the kids in 2008 — even though policy says it should have continued.

That was unfair to both the mother and her children and something that needs to be acknowledged by the system, he said.

"We believe the decision to not provide concurrent planning and continue to work cooperatively with (the mother) may well have affected the bond between the children and their mother," Pringle said in a report released Wednesday.

Pringle said once the relationship between child-welfare workers and the mother dissolved, "adversarial positions became entrenched."

That led to fewer supervised family visits — even though they were court-ordered — and a lack of consideration of the parent's progress or options other than permanent wardship for the children, he said.

Pringle launched a rare administrative fairness investigation into the case in January after a court decision garnered media attention.

The advocate's report noted that the mother turned her life around.

In April 2009, she told the ministry that she was addressing her health needs. She got her own home and completed two addiction-treatment programs.

"This information was not assessed as progress ... and was not given due consideration in reducing the assessed risk," said Pringle.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Changes to system

Andrea Brittin, executive director of service delivery for Child and Family Services, said in February that a provincewide review is underway to ensure compliance on all court orders.

- She added that annual department audits will now include a review of whether court orders are followed and staff training will emphasize the issue.

A force for road-safety good?

Some experts say a traffic enforcement police force like Alberta's could help put the brakes on highway fatalities in Saskatchewan PAGE 3

UN ballistic over N. Korea's rocket launch

Whether the 'appropriate response' the Security Council has threatened includes new sanctions is mainly up to China PAGE 6

Lovely Rita Ora

Jay-Z's protegé admires confident women and listens to her mom's advice on beauty — sometimes PAGE 14

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Outside King's Head Tavern

Men found guilty in fatal stabbing

Two men have been found guilty of manslaughter in the fatal stabbing of a man outside a Regina bar.

Albert Lowenberger was killed in February 2008 outside the King's Head Tavern.

Ronald Zerr and Ashton Lavallee were also convicted of aggravated assault for attacking Lowenberger's twin brother and his friend.

The two sides gave contradictory testimony at the trial about who brought knives and started the fight.

Zerr and Lavallee are to be sentenced Tuesday.

The Crown is looking for a prison term of more than 12 years, while the defence wants something on the lower end of the scale.

Zerr had been charged with second-degree murder. The jury's decision to convict him on the lesser charge appeared to upset the victim's family. "It's ridiculous how the whole thing played out," Lowenberger's brother, Theo, said outside court.

"They certainly wanted to see Mr. Zerr be convicted of murder," said Crown lawyer Chris White.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/CJME

Gas bar survives fire

Small-town Sask. loses Co-op store in blaze

A Co-op store in a small community in east-central Saskatchewan has burned to the ground.

The fire broke out Tuesday night at the store in Bjorkdale.

The community's fire department, along with crews from Tisdale and Porcupine Plain, battled the blaze.

They couldn't save the store, but did stop the fire from spreading to the nearby gas bar.

There's no word on a cause or a damage estimate.

The Co-op was one of the few businesses in Bjorkdale, which has a population of just over 200. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Traffic-specific police force may lower highway deaths: Experts

Provincial highways. Alberta has 107 sheriffs dedicated to traffic enforcement

MORGAN MODJESKI
Metro in Saskatoon

With 155 deaths on provincial highways in Saskatchewan this year, some experts say a traffic-enforcement police force could be the right move for the province.

Dr. Louis Hugo Francescutti, a professor at the University of Alberta's School of Public Health, an emergency room physician and a specialist in injury prevention said he feels a force like the Alberta traffic sheriffs would benefit Saskatchewan.

"In Alberta we've created sheriffs and the sheriffs' responsibilities are to enforce traffic safety. Unfortunately, the RCMP and most police forces don't view traffic as a high priority," said Francescutti.

Gerry Shimko, the executive director of Edmonton's Office of Traffic Safety, echoed Francescutti, adding he feels a traffic-specific police force would contribute to lowering the number of highway deaths.

"It's complex, but it would be helpful," said Shimko.

"Obviously there are better synergies when you have people who are dedicated to specific tasks, versus a general police officer, who has much more functionality and priorities (that) are different," he said.

Rebecca Schulz, manager of media relations with SGI, said although there are currently no plans to implement a traffic-enforcement police force, SGI is concerned about the rise in highway fatalities and are constantly examining what other provinces are doing in terms of traffic safety.

Although no one from the Saskatchewan RCMP was available for comment before deadline, they do have a unit dedicated to traffic enforcement in the province.

Quoted

"We are always monitoring what other jurisdictions like Alberta are doing in terms of traffic safety, we consider those results and we look at how applicable they are in Saskatchewan."

Rebecca Schulz, manager of media relations with SGI

Some experts say a police force like Alberta's traffic sheriffs, dedicated to traffic enforcement in Saskatchewan, would help lower the number of highway fatalities. SHEILA STEELE/FLICKR

Brett Wilson's book features stories about his life, inspiration and updates on past Dragons' Den ventures. CONTRIBUTED/HEATHER FRITZ

Former 'Dragon' Brett Wilson in Regina for book signing

Back in town.
Sask. native praises province's economic success as he returns to old stomping grounds

ALYSSA MCDONALD
alyssa.mcdonald@metronews.ca

Entrepreneur Brett Wilson is in the Queen City for a book signing at the site of his first-ever Dragons' Den deal.

Wilson will be signing copies of his book, Redefining Success: Still Making Mistakes, at jewelers Hillberg & Berk, who he invested in during Season 3 of the popular CBC show.

"This is just supporting the homeland and one of my key business partners, and selling a few books while we are at it," said Wilson, who was drawn to the company's Regina roots.

Wilson, who is from North Battlefield, comes to Saskatchewan every couple of months to visit family and check up on different investments.

Hometown love

"It's a wonderful example of what we would call 'The Perfect Storm' ... it all seems to be happening at the same time ... it's a great time to be an entrepreneur in Saskatchewan."

Entrepreneur Brett Wilson, who says he has many investments in Saskatchewan and sees the potential in the province to continue booming economically.

"It's unbelievable the response in the homeland. It feels great to come home, and it feels great to be respected," said Wilson.

Wilson will be at Hillberg & Berk from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. and at Costco from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday signing copies of his bestselling book.

"I call it a bit of a smorgasbord approach to seeing how Brett's life has unfolded as a small-town prairie boy," said Wilson.

Crime quell

2012 crime stats showing downward trend

While national statistics may rank Regina prominently in studies like the Crime Severity Index, the city's crime statistics are telling a slightly different story.

"We are certainly at or near the top in a number of categories on a national perspective," said Regina Police Chief Troy Hagen. "But what is important to recognize is that over a 10-year period our crime rate has significantly outpaced the national experience in terms of a reduction ... we are outpacing the national reduction 2:1."

While the official 2012 crime statistics won't be released until February 2013, month-by-month crime rate statistics are showing positive signs.

JEFF MACKEY/METRO

SaskPower

Province approves power rate hikes

The cost of electricity is going up in Saskatchewan.

The province has approved a request by SaskPower to hike rates four-point-nine per cent, effective January 1st.

SaskPower Minister Bill Boyd says the hike is needed to fund investments in the province's electrical system and keep up with Saskatchewan's growing economy, while at the same time maintaining safe and reliable electrical service.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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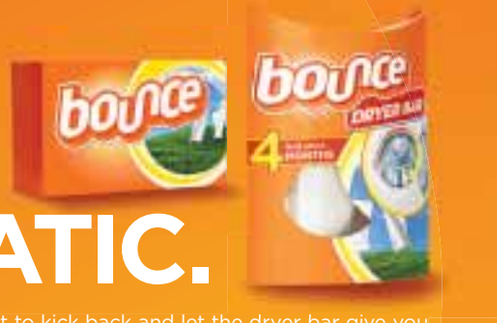

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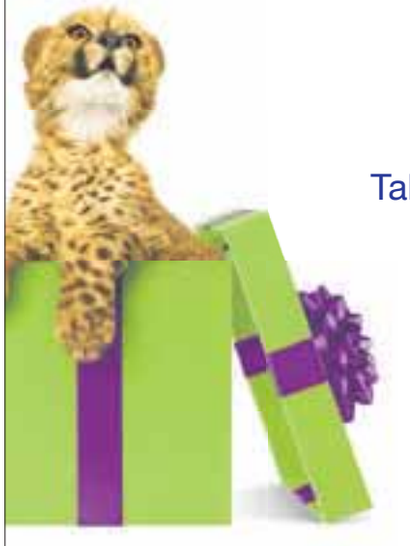

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Tories swallow a 'reset' pill to cure that F-35 headache

Bombshell report. Government will review the whole deal amid warnings costs could soar to $45.8 billion over 42 years

The Harper government has "hit the reset button" in the F-35 mess.

A bombshell report has exposed the cascading multibillion-dollar cost of the stealth aircraft.

The long-awaited KPMG report warns the Lockheed Martin-built F-35s could cost Canada as much as $45.8 billion over 42 years.

The report says National Defence neglected to build a large enough financial cushion into the plan to replace Canada's aging fighter fleet.

And the paltry-by-comparison $9 billion the department set aside likely won't be enough to cover the planned purchase of 65 jets.

Now the entire process will be reviewed, Public Works Minister Rona Ambrose said Wednesday.

"The next step is a full review of options," Ambrose told a news conference.

"We have hit the reset button and are taking the time to do a complete assessment of all available options.''

Defence Minister Peter MacKay said the government will ensure "that balance is maintained between the military needs and taxpayer interests."

The NDP's critics were unmoved, insisting the government was steadfastly refusing to admit the whole process has been fumbled.

"You can't move on, you can't move forward until you've admitted that you've got a problem and that you've made mistakes,'' said Matthew Kellway, the party's procurement critic.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Numbers game

65

The number of jets in the government's planned F-35 purchase. But the soaring costs may force a reduction to 55 planes.

That F-35 headache just won't go away. Defence Minister Peter MacKay takes part in a Parliament Hill news conference on the controversial fighter jets on Wednesday. FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

N. Korea flies high over rocket, but UN brings it down to earth

Rocket-happy North Korea got an unhappy response on Wednesday from the United Nations Security Council.

It condemned the North Koreans' successful rocket launch and said it will urgently consider "an appropriate response.''

But whether that response includes new sanctions against the North — which the U.S. and its European allies are seeking — depends first and foremost on China, the North's closest ally.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei said in Beijing the council's response should be "prudent and moderate and conducive to maintaining stability and avoiding escalation of the situation."

The Security Council said the launch violates Security Council resolutions adopted after North Korea's nuclear tests in 2006 and 2009.

Secretive North Korea also broke a ban on "any launch using ballistic missile technology," it complained.

"Members of the Security Council will continue consultation on an appropriate response ... given the urgency of the matter," the council statement said.

The successful rocket launch is widely seen as a test that takes North Korea one step closer to being capable of sending a nuclear-tipped warhead as far as California.

North Korea officials say the rocket is meant to send a satellite into orbit to study crops and weather patterns, and Pyongyang maintains its right to develop a civilian space program.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"(The launch) constitutes a very dangerous challenge to ... the security situation in the Korean peninsula and northeast Asia."

Kim Sook, South Korea's UN ambassador

The flames of anger burn in South Korea over the North's rocket launch. In Seoul, protesters burn a mock rocket only to see police move in with fire extinguishers. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cash or death

Skype scam almost pays off

Police are warning people to be on guard against fraudsters using Skype.

Kingston police say a resident got a Skype video call from a man identifying himself as a doctor held prisoner in Syria.

The supposed doctor said if $2,500 was not transferred to a Western Union office in Lebanon, he would be beheaded. The victim wired funds — but later contacted police and stopped the transfer.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Software icon

McAfee booted from Guatemala

Anti-virus software founder John McAfee arrived in Miami Wednesday after being deported from Guatemala and was expected to be escorted by federal authorities after he cleared customs.

He had sneaked into Guatemala from Belize, where authorities want to question him in a homicide.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Dad who killed his children freed

A father who stabbed his children to death will be a free man, less than four years later.

Guy Turcotte has been granted his release, with conditions, from a psychiatric institution. The cardiologist had been found not criminally responsible for killing his two children and, since last year's court verdict, he had been in Montreal's Pinel institute.

His case provoked a torrent of outrage in Quebec, where Turcotte is a household name.

He had admitted to stabbing his young children 46 times but said he didn't remember doing it, hadn't wanted to do it and had been experiencing blackouts on the night of the killings.

He said he was distraught over the breakup of his marriage. His wife had left him for a family friend who was her personal trainer.

Turcotte's release was unanimously approved today by a three-member panel. He will have to get annual mental-health checkups, continue his therapy, stay out of trouble and avoid all contact with his ex-wife. But his legal woes are not over yet: The Crown has filed to appeal the 2011 court verdict.

The Tories plan to introduce a bill in the House of Commons early next year that would make the safety of the public the paramount factor for review boards that determine an offender's release.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Criminal code plans

Several cases like Turcotte's, including the 2008 bus-beheading in Manitoba and the Schoenborn child-killings in B.C., have prompted a federal policy change. The Harper government plans to make it more difficult for mentally ill offenders found not criminally responsible to be released from custody.

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Singer Justin Bieber at a Dec. 5 event in Philadelphia. An alleged plot to murder the singer in November was foiled by police. LISA LAKE/GETTY IMAGES FILE

Alleged plot to murder Justin Bieber thwarted

Disclaimer.
Warning: This story contains graphic details

A police affidavit alleges that two prison inmates and a nephew were hatching a plot to murder Bieber and his director of security while the singer was in New York for shows on Nov. 28 and 29.

Details of the grisly plan — which involved strangling two other victims with a paisley tie and then castrating them — were revealed Wednesday in an affidavit for arrest obtained by New Mexico State Police.

But the plot may have been thwarted by a missed highway exit and a pair of recorded phone calls between an inmate and one of the accused.

According to the affidavit, the plan was hatched behind bars after inmate Dana Martin was transferred from a Florida prison to the Southern New Mexico Corrections Facility in April.

Martin, 45, serving a life sentence for the rape and murder of a 15-year-old girl in Vermont, was reportedly obsessed with Bieber. He had written him letters and even had a tattoo of the singer on his leg.

He allegedly recruited Mark Aaron Staake, 41, a fellow inmate at the time, after Staake noticed the tattoo on his leg. The plan was to kill four people in two states, with Bieber as the main target.

Oddly, the details were spilled on Nov. 20, when Martin asked to speak to police, telling them Staake (who had been released on probation on Oct. 22) and his nephew, Tanner Ruane, 23, had been planning to commit the first two murders — neither of them Bieber. New Mexico police declined to identify those intended victims.

Martin is serving consecutive life sentences for murders committed in 2000. The strangulation murder of the 15-year-old girl was a "case of jealousy," police told The Associated Press.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Suspected mastermind

- **Manipulator.** The police affidavit describes Martin as "a very good manipulator," who convinced Staake that he had access to large sums of money and a multimillion-dollar home and property, where Staake and Ruane could hide out.
- **Connections.** He also told Staake that he had connections to Chinese gangs in New York, who had "sanctioned" the murders, according to the affidavit.

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Consumers turn the page on dedicated e-readers

Tech trends. Rapid decline in sales is part of move to general-purpose devices such as tablets

Sales of dedicated e-reading devices like the black-and-white Kindles are in an "alarmingly precipitous decline" this year after five years of rapid growth, research firm IHS iSuppli says.

Full-blown tablets with colour screens are behind the decline, the firm says. Amazon.com Inc. now sells tablets under the Kindle brand, and Barnes & Noble Inc. has added tablets to its Nook e-reader line.

IHS expects shipments of e-readers to fall from 23.2 million last year to 14.1 million this year.

The rapid rise and now rapid decline of e-readers is unusual even for the volatile consumer electronics industry, says IHS analyst Jordan Selburn, but it's indicative of the broader trend of single-purpose devices like e-readers and cameras losing out to general-purpose ones like tablets and smartphones.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A young girl looks at a Sony e-book at the Frankfurt Book Fair in October in Frankfurt, Germany. Sales of dedicated e-reading devices are in an "alarmingly precipitous decline," research firm IHS iSuppli says. GETTY IMAGES FILE

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Canadian fallout. U.S. fiscal cliff imperils energy, mining sectors

A plunge by Washington over the so-called fiscal cliff would hit Canadian miners and energy companies particularly hard since a slowdown in the U.S. economy would also drag down prices for base metals and oil.

Paul Taylor, chief investment officer for fundamental equities at BMO Asset Management, said Wednesday it will be the cyclical sectors that will be most affected if U.S. lawmakers fail to reach a deal to avoid the automatic tax hikes and spending cuts set to kick in next year.

"We are very much dependent on energy and materials which represent, of course, nearly 50 per cent of the Canadian equity market by market cap," Taylor said.

"And with slower U.S. — and read from that slower global economic activity — you would have to expect that the price of base metals and energy on which we depend so heavily would be affected negatively and they would certainly lose a bit." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Consumer concern

- A new poll by Sun Life Financial suggests 63 per cent of Canadians are concerned our economy will be hurt if a deal to avert the fiscal cliff is not reached.

Safety concerns

Honda recalls 870,000 vehicles

Honda is recalling about 870,000 minivans and SUVs worldwide because they can roll away even though drivers have removed the keys from the ignition.

Honda Canada says the recall will involve approximately 23,300 Honda Odyssey and 12,400 Honda Pilot vehicles from the 2003-04 model years and about 16,600 Acura MDX vehicles from the 2003-06 model years in Canada. "Honda Canada has received several complaints about such failures in these vehicles, but has received no reports of accidents or injuries related to this issue," the company said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Social media

Facebook to make privacy controls more user-friendly

Facebook is trying to make its privacy controls easier to find and understand in an effort to turn the world's largest social network into a more discreet place.

The fine-tuning announced Wednesday will include several revisions that will start rolling out to Facebook Inc.'s more than one billion users in the next few weeks.

The biggest change will be a new "privacy shortcuts" section that will appear as a tiny lock on the right-hand side at the top of people's news feeds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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SHIELDS UP! RED ALERT!

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Friends, Romulans, countrymen! Lend me your pointy ears. I come not to bury Star Trek (frankly, Voyager did that), but to praise it.

Star Trek: The Next Generation is on Netflix now, and I'm completely engaged. To my surprise and delight, many of my Facebook friends have independently made it their priority No. 1, and it's resulted in the sort of long, passionate comment threads usually only seen under shared photos of ultrasounds and/or Stephen Harper.

I've complained in this space before that too much modern pop culture is just the repackaging of ideas we've seen before. But I can't deny the movies I've been anticipating most lately: Bobcaygeon The Movie (documentary based on a rock ballad); Les Miserables (movie adaptation of a musical adaptation of a French musical adaptation of a novel); and Star Trek Into Darkness (sequel of a reboot of a movie version of a TV series).

TNG regeneration

Going back to the future is a pleasant reminder of my not-so-dazed-and-confused youth — I get older, the Enterprise crew stay the same age.

I can get all snobby at Men in Black 3, but if it's John's Crap: The Sequel, then my objections mysteriously disappear. In truth, if they made a movie of The Wire, I'd probably show up in costume (rumpled suit with vomit stains).

So, I apologize for my earlier complaints. Star Trek: Regurgitation is just fine by me.

I was the perfect age for the original run of TNG — 11 years old when it debuted as a juvenile imitation of the original series, and 17 when it was over, by then a Hugo Award-winning masterpiece beloved by virgins worldwide. So going back to the future is a pleasant reminder of my not-so-dazed-and-confused youth — I get older, the Enterprise crew stay the same age.

In a world where people no longer meet in town halls and churches, some of us get our sense of community by discussing the legends of Vulcans or Orcs or hard-drinking ad execs. Whether that's a step forward or back I'll leave to you.

But what fun to get lost in the minutia of a 24th century where anything can happen except good roles for women. How wonderful to laugh at the stuff they got wrong (Picard's personal computer is amusingly thick) and got right (Picard and Riker discuss a European union). How satisfying to gauge a fellow Trekker's knowledge level by their recognition of "Make it so" (beginner), "THERE. ARE. FOUR. LIGHTS!" (intermediate), and "All Husnock — everywhere" (expert).

My excitement led me to decide that I'm going to watch every worthwhile Star Trek episode, which after several hours perusing reviews and ratings online I've determined is 30 episodes of the original, six episodes of the animated series, 54 episodes of TNG, 69 of DS9, 29 of Voyager and 25 of Enterprise. (I just hope the experience doesn't turn me into a nerd.)

It's good to boldly go where I've already been before.

Taking us out of here, again: The cast of Star Trek: The Next Generation.
2012 CBS STUDIOS INC HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Love is sweeter by the dozen

KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

12/12/12 SWAK

Last triple-date to wed your mate

A couple kiss during a mass wedding ceremony at the Peak in Hong Kong, on Wednesday. At least 700 couples were expected to get married on the date 12/12/12, the last such triple-date in this year in Hong Kong as they believe the date will bring them everlasting love. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

When the clock strikes 12:12

Twelve-word vows say it all

KEITH SRAKOCIC/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Federal Judge Donetta Ambrose, left, signals that there are five more minutes before she starts the wedding between Deputy U.S. Marshal Brian Allen, centre, and Assistant U.S. Attorney Amy Johnson in federal court in Pittsburgh on Wednesday. Ambrose started their wedding at 12:12 p.m. at the couple's request, where they exchanged 12-word vows on 12/12/12. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Chinese numerology

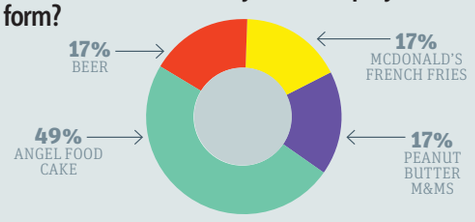
"One is considered a yang number, while two is considered a yin number. Combining the two can offer new couples balance."

Marketing firm Back Bar USA in a press release announcing its $1,212,120 Las Vegas wedding package that included the use of a private jet, watches and earrings for the wedding party, and dinner at a Michelin-rated restaurant.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Pizza Hut is making a pizza-scented perfume. What other foods would you like in spray-on form?



Twitter

@Govt_House: Did you know? Saskatchewan's 1st LG, Amédée Forget owned a monkey named Jocko. Guess he was ahead of his time! #ikea-monkey

@AndrewMatte: In about an hour from now in Regina, it will be 12:12 p.m. — on 12/12/12. #yqr

@cmcgonigal: #YQR... We need to improve on promotion of events in this city. I always miss out on what is happening cause I never knew about it!

@KeithDAndrade: Someday someone will ask you, where were you on 12/12/12 at 12:12? I'm proud to say, I was watching a kid eat grilled cheese.

@NelsonHackewich: I always love watching the follower count climb after a #YQR-Tweetup Event

metro

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SCENE 2

13th Ave Records sewing common thread through local music scene

Rendezvous. End of year bash to include the likes of Belle Plaine, The Lazy MKs and Lonesome Weekends

BACKSTAGE PASS
jeff.mackey@metronews.ca

Chris Prpich in the cellar beneath Buy the Book. This space is where many of the bands from his label, 13th Ave Records, practice. JEFF MACKEY/METRO

13th Avenue west of Albert Street has long been considered the cultural heart of Regina and if Chris Prpich, owner and operator of 13th Ave Records, has anything to say about it, that won't be changing anytime soon.

"This rehearsal space that we have on 13th avenue is where a lot of this (music) community started," said Prpich, who founded the label about two years ago. "We have put out a dozen different releases from six or seven different acts and we have more stuff slated to come out too."

The label features tons of Regina talent and it will be hosting a big year-end Rendezvous at the Artesian on Dec. 29 that will bring out some great 13th Ave acts and possibly a few surprise guests.

Included in the label's lineup is Belle Plaine, The Lazy MKs, The Lonesome Weekends, B.D Willoughby and Tim McCashin, among others.

"Belle Plaine is one of the more prominent members of the label," said Prpich. "Newest to the label would be the Pile O' Bones Brass Band, they are working on recording right now and that should be out next year sometime."

In a literal sense it is difficult to be more underground than 13th Ave Records — the label's shared practice space is a cellar located beneath Buy the Book on 13th Avenue.

This space is only accessible through a trap door found at the back of the bookstore. The area is dark, mostly wood grained and cluttered with musical instruments and memorabilia from tours gone by.

For his part, Prpich is a man who wears many hats. He runs and operates 13th Ave Records, he's a member of Regina bands the Lazy Mks and the Lonesome Weekends and he works at Buy the Book on 13th Avenue.

It's surprising how much these different roles overlap in Prpich's day-to-day life.

"I work at the store (Buy the Book) eight hours a day, six days a week, but there is music that happens here probably for five hours (a night) three of four nights a week," said Prpich. "The store serves as a social point where musicians can come in and visit or phone in and figure some stuff out."

These days, the space is being used intensely by the bands of 13th Ave Records to prepare for their big year-end Rendezvous show that will feature the many acts of the label all playing one big show for the first time.

The 13th Ave Records Rendezvous will take place on Dec. 29 at the Artesian. Doors will open at 7 p.m. and tickets are available at Mysteria for $15. The German Club will be hosting an after party.

"It (The Artesian) is such a nice space to play and people feel really comfortable there, plus being a block away, it is really easy to lug gear there."

Ex-gambling den?

The mystery of history

The cellar seems chock full of history both new and old. Prpich believes the space was once an illegal Chinese gambling den run by the grocers who occupied the main floor.

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

The year in celebrity divorces

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Yesterday we looked at the big celebrity engagements of 2012. (Aw, love!) So today we'll gaze at the years big celebrity divorces. (Boo, dead love!)

Katy Perry and Russell Brand
Announcement: Dec. 30 (so technically this occurred in 2011 but the fallout was in 2012. Work with me here, folks).
Length of marriage: 14 months
Reason: "She's young, successful and dedicated," Brand said of Perry and her career in an interview with Howard Stern in July. "(The reality is) you can't fully understand it until you do it. I was really into the idea of marriage and having children." Translation: The recovering alcoholic wanted to settle down; she wanted to party.
Contention level: Low. Instead of anger, Perry just seems embarrassed she was ever associated with the comedian. She recently hid under a table to avoid seeing him while she was having lunch with new beau John Mayer.

Heidi Klum and Seal
Announcement: Jan. 23
Length of marriage: 7 years
Reason: Klum was apparently disturbed about Seal's "inability to control his temper."
Contention level: High. The two are currently involved in a very bitter custody dispute over their four children and Klum's estimated $70 million fortune.

Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise
Announcement: June 29
Length of marriage: 5 years
Reason: Cruise was reportedly blindsided by Holmes' highly orchestrated divorce proceedings. One reason for the split? Us Weekly claims that the couple "fought viciously" over Scientology parenting.
Contention level: Medium. The divorce was fast and furious (by comparison, Kim Kardashian and Kris Humphries are still in negotiations). Cruise seems sad; Holmes ecstatic. And Suri is still well-dressed.

Amy Poehler and Will Arnett
Announcement: Sept. 6
Length of marriage: 9 years
Reason: Their romance "fizzled out," RadarOnline.com reported.
Contention level: Low. They are too adorable to be mad at one another.

Joe Simpson and Tina Simpson
Announcement: They filed on Sept. 24; TMZ broke the news on Oct. 24
Length of marriage: 34 years
Reason: Well, the divorce papers state: "The marriage has become insupportable because of discord or conflict of personalities." But the National Enquirer says it's because Joe, a 54-year-old former youth minister, is gay — and even has a boyfriend. Whoa.
Contention level: Awkward. If you were Tina Simpson, wouldn't you feel funny inside?

The Spice Girls

New musical slammed for lacking Spice

Reviews are coming in for Viva Forever, the musical based on the hits of the Spice Girls — and it isn't pretty. The Daily Mail's Quentin Letts dismisses the show as "a prize Christmas Turkey," while the Telegraph's Charles Spencer rants, "This is a fatuous show with nothing fresh to say about popular culture and our fixation with fame." The harshest scorn came from the Daily Mirror, though, with the condemnation, "There is more female empowerment at a Taliban finishing school." The musical was written by Absolutely Fabulous star Jennifer Saunders. While all five original Spice Girls were on hand for the musical's London premiere earlier this week, they do not appear in the show itself.

Lindsay Lohan. ALL PHOTOS GETTY

Lohan won't follow Max and The Wanted

Lindsay Lohan has put an end to her gallivanting with on-the-road British boy band The Wanted, cancelling plans to follow the group to London and then Dubai, according to E! News.

Some suspected the change of plans was caused by Lohan's legal troubles, but the starlet is allowed to leave the country while on probation. Perhaps it's because her recent infatuation with Wanted member Max George reportedly isn't all that serious. "All they're doing is hanging out," a source says.

Megan Fox

Fox not fond of giving birth

First-time mom Megan Fox is thrilled to have son Noah in her life, but bringing him into the world wasn't exactly her favourite experience, she admits to Access Hollywood.

"I was screaming for an epidural when Brian was driving me to the hospital because my water broke on its own," she says. "It was level orange alert pain." Despite the pain, though, Fox was still concerned about her appearance. "I had wet hair so I was trying to blow dry my hair before I went to the hospital," she says. "I didn't want to go to the hospital with wet hair."

Twitter

@KChenoweth
No one will see Paranormal Activity 4 with me.

@RealMichelleT
What would the Dowager Countess do?

@msleamichele
Another great day of work at #glee! Time to get some rest now! Another big day tomorrow! Xoxo

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Bask in Rita's aura

Jay-Z's protege spills about her two-tone lip, her knack for nurturing her locks and her long-standing love for Lopez

ROMINA McGUINNESS
life@metronews.ca

No one rocks a strong brow and bold lip quite like Rita Ora does. And so we felt compelled to pick her brain about her trademark look. In the process, Jay-Z's protege gave us a few tips on how to rock a two-tone red pout and the celebrity (it's J.Lo!) whose complexion she covets the most.

On her morning routine...
"In the day, it takes about 10 to 15 minutes (to put my makeup on). If I don't have to wear makeup, I don't. I don't mind being caught on camera bare-faced. And I think having healthy, glowing skin is really important. On off days, I'll wear bronzer and a lipstick, but that's it. A red lip and black liquid eyeliner would be my easiest look. It looks good on blondes — but this is all bleached! "

...and fancy, get-dressed-up, evening ritual
"If I have an event, I might stick some lashes on and maybe put on some golden, bronzy eye shadow, something to make my eyes stand out a bit more. But in the evening, it takes me probably about 25 minutes to do my makeup — if I'm doing it properly. Do you know what I'm doing right now? The other day, I wore a dress that had pink and red, so I made my top lip pink and my bottom lip red. That was quite cool. We invented that with my makeup artist. Or you can do bright red on the outside and dark red on the inside and blend it all together. The main thing is making your skin look flawless, like you have no makeup on."

She's not a natural blonde, but a natural beauty? No question. HANDOUT

Face the facts

"J.LO is my skin idol, I love her. Is that really crazy? Do I sound like a psychopath?"
Rita Ora

Her skin care before bed
"I wash my face every night and use Crème de la Mer moisturizing soft cream as it makes my skin feel nice. But my skin isn't too bad actually."

The hair: to spray or not to spray
"(My hair) takes a lot of work. I used to have really long hair, but when I started dying it and using curling irons and stuff, it dried it out. I'd literally have a hair spray in my bag, which isn't good. Now I use clip-ins so that I don't damage my own hair. I also do a lot of treatments — a lot of oils and masks. But your hair will only absorb so much oil. You also have to eat good. So I eat things like fish for the oils."

Lipstick or lip gloss?
"I love a strong lip. I would see women like Marilyn Monroe and Gwen Stefani with red lips and they never looked like they gave a s—t about what anyone had to say about them. They had such confidence. They were just hot and sexy and not afraid to be different. When I put red lipstick on, I want to be like them."

About that tan
(I feel the most beautiful) when I've got a tan!

Her beauty icons
"Kim Kardashian has good makeup. But J.LO is my skin idol, I love her. Is that really crazy? Do I sound like a psychopath? My mum's really good with makeup. She always has a different look. She used to say, 'Don't do a lip and an eye. Pick one.' I follow her advice ... sometimes."

A peek inside Rita's makeup bag

1 Tom Ford
Cherry Lush Lip Color
"It's not just an evening look, I wear it in the day with sunglasses. It spices up your face. You can have no other makeup on and just a red lipstick and look like you've made the biggest effort."
$48, tomford.com

2 Dior
Diorshow Waterproof Backstage Mascara
"It's really dark and makes my eyelashes strong."
$25, dior.com

3 Elizabeth Arden
Eight Hour Cream Skin Protectant
"I use this for everything — for my face, on my lips as a gloss. And, sometimes, when I want a wet look, I put it on my eyelids."
$20, elizabetharden.com

4 MAC
Black Waterproof Liquid Eyeliner
"This stays on all day, it doesn't come off."
$19, maccosmsetics.com

5 Chanel
Vitalumière Aqua fresh and Hydrating Cream Compact Makeup SPF 15
"This covers things up quickly. It's got a little mirror which makes it easy to use."
$58, chanel.com

6 Bobbi Brown
Shimmer Brick Compact in Bronze
"I love the different layers. It goes from light to dark, so you can use it as an eye shadow, blusher, highlighter and bronzer. It's like four in one."
$44, bobbibrowncosmetics.com

Christmas card clutter solutions

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

If you are the popular type then you probably get lots of Christmas cards sent to you each holiday season.

One of the most asked questions I get during the holidays is what to do with the cards and how to creatively display them.

I remember as a kid my Mom would string them up across our window in the living room. She'd poke them into the edges of painting and mirror frames; basically ridding them of tabletops in order to make room for trays of hard candy and nuts.

I've seen cards lined up on mantels, window ledges and credenzas, stuck to the fridge door and draped on a ribbon around door frames.

For a family home that might look charmingly chaotic, it's important to create order with decor, and greeting cards are no exception.

As a designer type, I am always conscious of displaying things around my home that add to my decor — especially during the holidays. Here's a few ways that inspire me to proudly put those warm wishes on display.

Jolly Reindeer Photo Holder

At almost three–feet tall, I'd stand this hand-painted fellow in my front foyer as a greeter to guests when they arrive. $40, pier1.ca.

Card Keeper

Got keepsake cards? Store them away neatly (it's also a good way to remember who sent you cards from year to year). $12, crateandbarrel.com.

Holiday Card Holder

Organize 60 cards horizontally on a hallway wall or vertically beside the Christmas tree. $65, potterybarn.com.

Idea: lay your holiday greeting cards in a decorative tray and display on a coffee table. Allow guests to sift through them as desired.
PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Greeting Card Etiquette

- Display your cards into common groups: work related, family and friends.
- At the end of the season, gather all cards and store them with holiday decorations for next year. You'll then have an auto-list of people to send cards to.
- Up-cycle last year's extra-beautiful cards and use the front plackets as instant name tags for gifts. Just make sure there is no writing on the inside front.
- If someone sends you a card and its too late in the season to return one to them, send them a "thank you for thinking of me card" in the new year.
- Always include your return address on the envelope and sign the card with your first and last name. This ensures the receiver knows who it came from.

Paper or pixels? Are e-books or real books greener?

QUEEN OF GREEN
Tovah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

Simple questions rarely have simple answers, and this is no exception. With a reported tie between adult e-books and traditional hardcovers, we all want to know which is actually greener. But the experts are as evenly split as the sales!

The methodology used to determine this sort of thing is called Life Cycle Analysis. It takes into consideration the environmental impact of a product from production right through to disposal. This isn't a simple matter of equating trees saved to energy used.

Nor is it categorically equal across brands of readers and publishers of books. The problem with broad generalizations is that they reduce our capacity to consider nuance.

A small-scale printer engaging primarily in direct sales, using recycled paper, vegetable-based inks and ecologically conservative business practices doesn't have the same footprint as a printer who takes a less conscientious approach.

To make matters more complicated, some e-reader producers have been quiet about their environmental position — not divulging lists of ingredients or manufacturing information — while others (probably the green leaders in the field) have edged closer to transparency.

Are we then to judge one industry by its model citizens and another by its full spectrum?

A better approach is to consider individual cases and make practical decisions based on the facts.

For example:

Case A: Fred already has an e-reader and wants books for Christmas.

Solution A: Buy him electronic books!

Case B: Maya doesn't have an e-reader. She too wants books for Christmas.

Solution B: Scour the second-hand bookstores for that perfect find. Fun!

Case C: Kamal is an avid reader with too many books … and he wants more.

Solution C: Urge Kamal to make use of the public library, where books — virtual and traditional — can be borrowed for free! Bake him cookies instead.

With books — as with everything — we would do well to consider the three Rs sequentially: reduce, reuse, recycle. Reduce new purchases by borrowing books from the library. It's the greenest option. Second to that, buy quality. The longer an e-reader lasts — or the more efficient the printing methods used — the less the environmental cost of your purchase.

Reuse books by buying used. If the person on your list is a purist addicted to the texture and smell of real books, they'll undoubtedly appreciate the inherit character of a used book. Recycle books that are just collecting dust on the shelves by donating them to charity. Engaging in a sharing economy is recycling at its best.

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Baby shrimp and crab meat make a delicious duo in delicate fried cakes

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I love the traditional fried crab cakes served in restaurants, but are they ever high in calories and fat! Here I've used a combination of baby shrimp and crabmeat and sautéed them in a very small amount of oil. The low-fat mayonnaise sauce goes beautifully with these delicate cakes.

They end up at 99 calories and 5.8 grams of fat per serving.

1. To make the cakes, combine the crabmeat, shrimp, mayonnaise, lemon juice, green onion, cilantro, bread crumbs, egg, garlic, ginger and mustard in a food processor. Finely chop until the mixture just comes together. Don't purée. Alternatively, chop by hand.

2. Form into 6 cakes.

3. Spray a non-stick skillet with cooking oil. Add the vegetable oil and place over medium heat. Sauté the cakes for about 5 minutes per side, or just until browned and hot.

4. To make the sauce, combine the mayonnaise, sour cream, sesame oil and soy sauce in a serving bowl. Whisk until smooth.

5. Garnish the cakes with the diced red pepper and serve the sauce alongside. **ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS) BY ROSE REISMAN**

Ingredients

Cakes
- 6 oz chopped crabmeat (or surimi)
- 4 oz baby shrimp (cooked)
- 3 tbsp light mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1/4 cup chopped green onion
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 1/2 cup dried unseasoned bread crumbs
- 1 large egg
- 1 tsp crushed fresh garlic
- 1/2 tsp crushed fresh ginger
- 1 tsp Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp vegetable oil

Sauce
- 1 tbsp light mayonnaise
- 2 tbsp low-fat sour cream
- 1 tsp sesame oil
- 1 tsp low-sodium soy sauce

Garnish
- 1/4 cup finely diced red bell pepper

Asian Crab and Shrimp Cakes

This recipe serves six. BRIAN MACDONALD, FROM ROSE REISMAN'S COMPLETE LIGHT KITCHEN (WHITECAP BOOKS)

Cookbook of the Week

Seafood made easy

Love seafood but don't have the time to get creative with cooking it? Enter 200 Best Canned Fish & Seafood Recipes by Susan Sampson.

The book is full of traditional and updated recipes, new creations and canned twists on classic fish dishes. The recipes feature canned seafood that can be found in virtually any supermarket across Canada: tuna, crab, salmon, mackerel, cod, sardines, clams, oysters, mussels and more.

Master dishes such as Salad Nicoise, Fish Tacos, Lemon Pepper-Shrimp Pasta, Lobster Mushroom Bisque, Crab Cakes, Tuna and Spinach Risotto and more. **METRO**

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fromscratchkitchen.com

This recipe serves six. NEWS CANADA

What we eat affects how we feel. And for those people living with arthritis, healthy eating habits can often be helpful.

The Arthritis Society has developed this healthy recipe for year-round entertaining.

This elegant entrée is effortless to prepare and makes a leaner option than regular roasts, plus, trout is a great source of omega 3s. Serve with wilted baby greens and oven-roasted baby potatoes.

1. Trout: Preheat the oven to 425 F (220 C). Arrange trout on a lightly greased, foil-lined baking sheet. Sprinkle evenly with salt and pepper. Blend oil with mustard, vinegar and thyme; brush evenly over the trout. Roast for 8 to 10 minutes or until fish flakes easily when tested with a fork.

2. Relish: Meanwhile, heat oil in a large, non-stick skillet set over medium-high heat. Add onion, mushrooms, thyme, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring often, for 5 to 7 minutes or until browned. Stir in roasted red pepper, vinegar and garlic. Cook, stirring, for 1 to 2 minutes or until glossy.

3. Spoon mushroom relish over trout. Garnish with parsley (if using) and serve with lemon wedges.

NEWS CANADA/ ARTHRITIS.CA

Ingredients

Trout
- 2 lbs (1 kg) boneless rainbow trout, about 2 large fillets
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt, pepper
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) each olive oil and Dijon mustard
- 2 tsp (10 ml) white wine vinegar
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) dried thyme

Relish
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 cups (500 ml) sliced cremini or white mushrooms
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) dried thyme
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) each salt, pepper
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) chopped roasted red pepper
- 1 tsp (5 ml) white wine vinegar
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- Chopped parsley (optional)
- Lemon wedges

Three famous omissions

Sidney Crosby

The Penguins superstar is arguably one of the best hockey players in the world. Few will forget his gold-medal goal for Canada at the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver. But Sid the Kid was left off the 2006 roster as the Wayne Gretzky-run squad decided to go with a veteran team.

Michael Jordan

Long before Air Jordan was great, he was cut from his high school team in the 1978-79 season. As a five-foot-11 sophomore, he was considered too short. He made the junior team and never looked back, starring at North Carolina before lifting the Chicago Bulls to six NBA titles as a pro.

Kurt Warner

Few gave this former grocery-store stockboy much of a chance in the pros. But despite being undrafted and spending four years trying to make the NFL, Warner went on to become one of the league's most prolific passers, winning an MVP and Super Bowl crown in 2001 with the St. Louis Rams. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Cut deep: Roster trim looms at junior camp

World juniors. Top teenagers running out of time to make impressions with final selections expected Thursday evening

Canadian goalies Laurent Brossoit and Jake Paterson chat following an exhibition game against the University of Alberta Golden Bears on Wednesday in Calgary. JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

There will be tears. There will be anger. There will be disappointment.

It won't be easy, but Team Canada coach Steve Spott will whittle his junior roster to 23 players. The final cuts — players who have always been the best on their teams — are expected Thursday night.

Don Hay, coach of the Vancouver Giants and a two-time Team Canada world junior coach, doesn't envy Spott's position.

"You see tears. You see disappointment. You see anger. You see all the things that go with human emotions," said Hay, who coached the entry last year and in 1995. "You obviously feel for that young man, going through all those different feelings and then (having to) face the media. He's got to compose himself fairly quickly before he goes out and speaks.

"It's a tough 10 or 15 minutes for everybody involved."

For those who remain, there's a team photo Friday, then a flight Saturday to Finland for exhibition games prior to the puck dropping on Boxing Day for the world junior hockey championship in Russia.

Those who don't make the roster will be whisked off to the airport for flights back to their respective teams. Few of the hopefuls have ever been cut by any team before.

Defenceman Mathew Dumba missed out last year.

"It sucked," he said. "It's a terrible experience. I got cut and I didn't fulfil my dream."

Spott is putting his own mark on how things are done. For one thing, the cuts are coming in the evening, not the morning. For years, the deed was done via 6 a.m. phone calls.

"It's not the most enjoyable thing in the world," said defenceman Jesse Blacker, now with the AHL's Toronto Marlies, who was cut from the 2011 team. "You can't really sleep. They called me at 6 o'clock to let me know that I had been cut, that I wasn't making the team. It's disappointing."

Blacker doesn't think the timing will leave players any less nervous, though.

"They're still going to be nervous in camp throughout the day," said Blacker. "The main goal is to play throughout the day without the nerves. Go out and show them what you've got, do what you can do. Don't leave yourself doubting that you gave it all you could."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Quoted

"I got away from my game last time. I was trying to prove to everyone how my defensive game had evolved.... I got away from my offensive side, which is why I got invited."

Kitchener Rangers defenceman Ryan Murphy, who has twice been cut at world junior camp.

First round of cuts

The Canadian junior men's hockey team released five players from its selection camp Wednesday.

- Defencemen Adam Pelech and Weyburn's Derrick Pouliot and forwards Francis Beauvillier, Sean Monahan and Tyler Graovac were cut, dropping the number of players competing for 23 spots on the team to 32.
- Four goalies, 10 defencemen and 18 forwards remain. Nine more hopefuls are expected to be released Thursday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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4 SPORTS

WHL. Pats shake up roster with pair of deals

The Pats acquired two forwards from the Red Deer Rebels on Wednesday.

Marc McCoy, Filip Vasko and a 2015 conditional draft pick will be heading to Regina in return for the rights to forward Dominik Volek.

McCoy is from Edmonton and will bring 92 games of WHL experience to the Pats lineup, in addition to adding size to the forward ranks.

Vasko has 11 points in 23 games this season and hails from Humenné, Slovakia.

On Wednesday the Pats also acquired 18-year-old defenceman Darian Henry from the Calgary Hitmen in return for a fifth-round WHL bantam-draft pick in 2015.

METRO

Raptors roll over to Nets

Raptors centre Jonas Valanciunas tries to get past Brooklyn Nets forward Reggie Evans in Toronto on Wednesday night. Joe Johnson had 23 points as the Nets handed the short-handed Toronto Raptors their sixth straight loss, 94-88. Raptor Ed Davis had a career-high 24 points with 12 rebounds. Valanciunas added 15 points for Toronto. CARLOS OSORIO/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Commissioner Gary Bettman heads uptown to address the media following the NHL board of governors meeting last week in New York. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Still walking around in circles

NHL. League and players' union gather in New Jersey, but no progress reported in new collective agreement

Quoted

"I thought the gap would be closed much quicker, but it hasn't come to fruition yet, so we have to keep working."

Brendan Morrison, one of 13 players to attend the latest talks on Wednesday.

The latest round of NHL labour talks ended with the two sides in different rooms from each other.

The players' association and league negotiators met separately Wednesday with U.S. federal mediators in suburban New Jersey, holding discussions that didn't appear to have moved the sides any closer to a deal to save the hockey season.

There was hope going into Wednesday that negotiations could get back on track to the point they were last Thursday before talks fell apart.

The NHL agreed last week to increase its make-whole offer of deferred payments from $211 million US to $300 million. It was part of a proposed package that required the union to agree on three non-negotiable points. Instead, the players' association accepted the raise in funds, but then made counter-proposals on the issues the league stated had no wiggle room.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman then said that the offer was being pulled from the table. However, mediators asked the union on Wednesday, if that proposal was back in play, would the players take it or leave it?

"It wasn't much of a decision," said Brendan Morrison, one of 13 players to attend Wednesday's talks.

The offer wasn't formally re-submitted by the NHL. Neither side made any proposals Wednesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Horoscopes

Aries
March 21 - April 20
Focus on what you are good at and forget the rest. If you play to your strengths, you will soon be on the road to fame and fortune. Stop listening to what everyone else is saying and do only what motivates you.

Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Chances are you will have a flash of insight today that reveals how you can earn big money in the not too distant future. Don't forget though that the future depends a lot on what you do right now, so get busy.

Gemini
May 22 - June 21
Today's new moon is sure to bring changes in one or more important relationships. Whether they are the kind of changes you enjoy remains to be seen but they are certainly changes that are needed, so don't fight them.

Cancer
June 22 - July 23
The more you do now, while you are in the mood to work, the less you will have to do later when you are not. Just remember that you don't have to do something simply because everyone else is doing it.

Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
A new moon in the most creative area of your chart gives you the kind of confidence you need to move mountains. Both in your personal life and at work you are capable of great things, so don't sell your talents short.

Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Sometimes it is smart to let your rivals win and this could be one of those occasions. If it gives them the impression that you are losing your grip, it will make it easier for you to win the battles that count!

Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Someone you meet today could become more than just a friend, so get up and get out into the world. If a stranger catches your eye, follow it up with a smile and a chat. One thing leads to another.

Scorpio
Oct. 2 04 - Nov. 22
You need to come to a decision today about a money matter and the planets will make it easy for you. There is really only one option on the table that is worth pursuing, so commit to it and make it pay.

Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
A new moon in your birth sign means you will find it easy to get your way over the next 24 hours. Does that fill your head with all sorts of outrageous ideas? It should! There are no limits (for you).

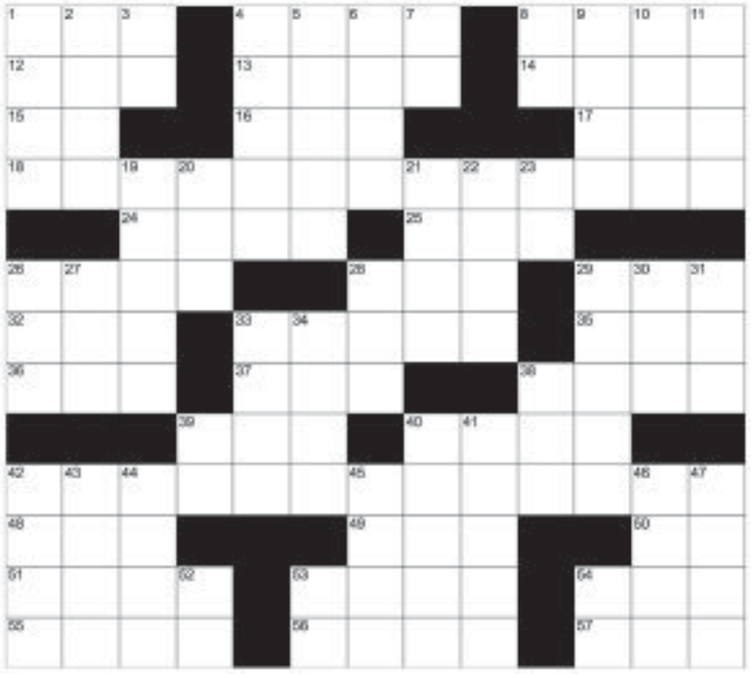
Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
How and why did you allow yourself to get worked up about something so trivial? Whatever the reason, you must now stand back from the situation and see it for what it is: a minor inconvenience, nothing more.

Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
You will need to choose between one group of friends and another today. Your time is limited and you can only do justice to one set of commitments, so choose wisely. You can make it up to your other friends later.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Don't get so carried away with your plans and big ideas that you overlook the little things on which they depend. Remember: genius is 10 per cent inspiration and 90 per cent perspiration – yes, even for a Pisces. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Crossword

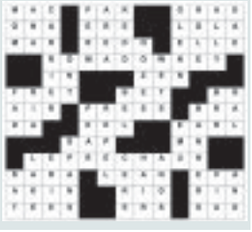
BY BETTY MARTIN



Across
1. Nightmare street
4. Ruse
8. Asian nurse
12. Cocoon
13. Comic/actress Tomlin
14. Ward of Once and Again
15. Musical group: — Vogue
16. American Music Awards (abbr.)
17. Refusals
18. 1970's Dick Van Patten series (3 words)
24. Toward sunrise
25. Sanford and —
26. Planet nearest but one to earth
28. — Paulo, Brazil
29. Coffee container
32. Aspire
33. Repeat over
35. Oath affirmation (2 words)
36. Speech hesitation
37. Runner
38. The — Griffith Show
39. Coupe or convertible
40. Send forth
42. Beatles hit song (4 words)
48. Stout
49. Boathouse item
50. Medical drama which starred George Clooney
51. Emily of New —
53. Small branch
54. Form of address
55. Hang
56. Model MacPherson
57. Capone and Capp

Down
1. Fencing sword
2. Burt Reynolds ex.
3. Marcus Welby, —
4. Some shoes
5. Margin
6. Woe is me!
7. — Wife and Kids
8. – The World Turn
9. Restaurant offering
10. Like a bump on – – (2 words)
11. Jumble
19. Bacteria
20. This Hour — 22 Minutes
21. Actor Morales of NYPD Blue
22. Lunch time for many
23. "Strangers – a Train"
26. Screen siren West
27. "— America"
28. Droop
29. Mottled bean
30. The — Couple
31. Christmas trinket
33. Type of horse
34. Wise one
38. Be indisposed
39. Hartford state.
40. High-tech message
41. Unite
42. Sleep under the stars
43. Salve plant
44. Inert gas
45. Wail
46. Bridal accessory
47. Goofs
52. Fargo state
53. — Diem
54. Peru's continent (abbr.)

Yesterday's Crossword



What's online

See today's answers metronews.ca/answers.

Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

		8	2		4	6		
	2		7		6		5	
6								8
		5	4	2	1	9		
		3	9	5	8	4		
2								6
	3		5		2		9	
		4	3		7	1		

Yesterday's Sudoku

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